

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 30, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 27, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2672

Introduced by Assembly Member Perea

February 21, 2014

An act to add Section 783.5 to the Public Utilities Code, relating to energy.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AB 2672, as amended, Perea. Access to energy: disadvantaged communities: San Joaquin Valley.

Under existing law, the Public Utilities Commission has regulatory authority over public utilities, including electrical and gas corporations, as defined. Existing law authorizes the commission to fix the rates and charges for every public utility, and requires that those rates and charges be just and reasonable. Existing law requires the commission to establish various programs that provide assistance to low-income electric and gas customers.

This bill would require the commission to require a gas corporation that provides natural gas service in the San Joaquin Valley, ~~by January 31, 2015, to identify~~ *Valley to identify by January 31, 2015,* disadvantaged communities in the San Joaquin Valley that do not have natural gas service. The bill would require the commission, by March 31, 2015, to initiate a new proceeding to conduct an affordable energy feasibility study for those communities. The bill would require the commission to determine whether any option analyzed in the study

would increase access to affordable energy in an economically viable manner. For these options, the bill would require the commission to take appropriate action and to determine appropriate funding sources.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares the following:
- 2 (a) Many low-income communities throughout California's San
- 3 Joaquin Valley lack access to natural gas lines.
- 4 (b) Increasing access to affordable energy can improve the
- 5 health, safety, and air quality of these communities.
- 6 SEC. 2. Section 783.5 is added to the Public Utilities Code, to
- 7 read:
- 8 783.5. (a) ~~The~~ *For the purposes of this section, the following*
- 9 *terms have the following meanings:*
- 10 (1) *"Disadvantaged community" means an area of the San*
- 11 *Joaquin Valley in which a high concentration of low-income*
- 12 *customers of an electrical corporation are enrolled in the CARE*
- 13 *program pursuant to Section 739.1.*
- 14 (2) *"San Joaquin Valley" means the counties of Fresno, Kings,*
- 15 *Madera, Tulare, Merced, Stanislaus, San Joaquin, and Kern.*
- 16 (b) ~~The~~ *commission shall require a gas corporation that provides*
- 17 *natural gas in the San Joaquin Valley, by January 31, 2015, to*
- 18 *identify Valley to identify by January 31, 2015, disadvantaged*
- 19 *communities in the San Joaquin Valley that do not have natural*
- 20 *gas service.*
- 21 ~~(b)~~
- 22 (c) *The commission shall, by March 31, 2015, initiate a new*
- 23 *proceeding to conduct an affordable energy feasibility study for*
- 24 *communities identified pursuant to subdivision (a). (b). The study*
- 25 *shall include analysis of the economic feasibility of the following*
- 26 *options:*
- 27 (1) *Extending gas pipelines to the communities.*
- 28 (2) *Increasing subsidies for electricity for individuals in those*
- 29 *communities.*
- 30 (3) *Other alternatives that would increase access to affordable*
- 31 *energy that the commission deems appropriate.*
- 32 ~~(e)~~

1 (d) The commission shall determine whether any of the options
2 analyzed in the study would increase access to affordable energy
3 in an economically viable manner. For these options, the
4 commission shall take appropriate action and determine appropriate
5 funding sources.

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